



## Connecting Paragraphs

In debates, it is important to remain dispassionate and to use logical and factual information. This can and usually does increase the length of your sentences and detail within paragraphs. To avoid losing the attention of your audience you ought to try and link your paragraphs together so that it follows a rational flow of ideas while magnifying the effect of your argument.

### Connecting paragraphs

Showing the link between paragraphs could involve writing 'hand-holding' sentences. These are sentences that link back to the ideas of the previous paragraph. For instance, when outlining the positive and negative issues about a topic you could use the following:

Example (from beginning of previous paragraph):

One of the main advantages of X is . . .

One of the positive effects of X is . . .

When you are ready to move your discussion to the negative issues, you could write one of the following as a paragraph opener: Example:

Having considered the positive effects of X, negative issues may now need to be taken into account . . .

Despite the positive effects outlined above, there are also negative issues to be considered . . .

It is always important to make paragraphs part of a coherent whole text; they must not be isolated units unrelated to the whole piece. 'Do not expect your reader to make the connection between your ideas, but make those connections explicit. This way, the reader will be lead in a logical order through your argument and will be reminded of your current theme or angle.' (Gillett, Hammond, & Martala, 2009) Checking for paragraph links in your own work.

When you are editing your next written assignment, ask yourself the following questions as you read through your work:

- Does the start of my paragraph give my reader enough information about what the paragraph will be about?
- Does my paragraph add to or elaborate on a point made previously and, if so, have I made this explicit with an appropriate linking word / phrase?
- Does my paragraph introduce a completely new point or a different viewpoint to before and, if so, have I explicitly shown this with a suitable connective?
- Have I used similar connectives repeatedly? (If yes, may need to vary them using the above list.)

# Connectives

<p><b>Summary</b>  in brief  in conclusion  overall  throughout  in all  summarising  recapitulating  on the whole  to sum up  in short</p>	<p><b>Conclusion</b>  finally  after all  in the end  in conclusion  to conclude  ultimately  to sum up</p>	<p><b>Illustrating</b>  for example  for instance  in other words  such as  in the case of  as revealed by  that is to say  to show that  thus</p>
<p><b>Emphasising</b>  specifically  in particular  above all  in fact  indeed  explicitly  more importantly  undoubtedly  certainly  definitely</p>	<p><b>Cause and Effect</b>  because  therefore  consequently  when  eventually  accordingly  as  so  effectively  thus  as a result  until  inevitably</p>	<p><b>Comparing</b>  comparatively  likewise  in contrast  compared with  (in comparison)  equally  as with  like  similarly  to balance this  an equivalent</p>
<p><b>Contrast</b>  whereas  alternatively  unlike  however  still  on the contrary  on the other hand  by the way of  in contrast  instead  otherwise  instead of  nevertheless</p>	<p><b>Adding</b>  and  as well as  moreover  what is more  too  and then  in addition  as well as  furthermore  ...also...</p>	<p><b>Illustrating</b>  for example  for instance  in other words  such as  in the case of  as revealed by  that is to say  to show that  thus</p>